

Finding Aid to Larry-Bob Roberts Collection

(#2013-07)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Larry-Bob Roberts collection

Collection Number: 2013-07

Physical Description: 7.5 linear feet (six cartons)

Creator: Roberts, Larry-Bob

Date (inclusive): 1978-2011, bulk 1990-1995

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Laurence “Larry-Bob” Roberts has been actively involved in the Bay Area’s punk, queercore, and zine scenes since the late 1980s. He was the editor of the zine *Holy Titclamps* (1989-2003) a queercore zine that documented queer punk culture and was noteworthy for its prolific zine review section. This zine review section later became a publication of its own, *Queer Zine Explosion*. This collection contains Larry-Bob Roberts' extensive correspondence, primarily with zine authors and readers, along with his personal collection of zines, independent publications and small underground publications, many of which were sent to Larry-Bob Roberts through correspondence with the interest of being reviewed in either *Holy Titclamps* or *Queer Zine Explosion*. These zines and publications document the queer punk subculture of the 1970s to the 2000s. Though most primarily originate from the United States, a small selection of zines, publications and correspondence originate internationally.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Larry-Bob Roberts papers (2013-07), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

Copyright to material has not been transferred to the GLBT Historical Society. All requests for reproductions and/or permission to publish or quote from material must be submitted in writing to the GLBT Historical Society Archivist. Permission for reproductions and/or permission to publish or quote from material is given on behalf of the GLBT Historical Society as the owner of

the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Larry-Bob Roberts in 2013.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Sonora Mooney in 2024.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note: Laurence “Larry-Bob” Roberts has been actively involved in the Bay Area’s punk, queercore, and zine scenes since the late 1980s. He was the editor of the zine *Holy Titclamps* (1989-2003) a queercore zine that documented queer punk culture and was noteworthy for its prolific zine review section. This zine review section later became a publication of its own, *Queer Zine Explosion*.

Scope and Content: The collection contains extensive correspondence as well as a large collection of zines and other underground publications which document the queer and punk subcultures of the 1990s. Material dated after 2004 is very limited. Correspondents include musicians, other zine creators, fans and imprisoned individuals (Roberts had a policy of distributing his zines for free to prisoners). In keeping with the punk aesthetic of Roberts and his correspondents, this material is highly visual and includes drawings and collages as well as text; enclosures include zines, fliers, ephemera and erotica. Cartons are arranged by prevailing topic, then by chronological order.

Series I contains multi-issue publications. These publications were often of a more refined caliber in their compilation and many titles were well-known zines and small publications during their time of conception. Series II contains zines which primarily contain poetry and fiction. Series III contains zines that primarily focus on music, musicians, bands, performances and the music industry. Series IV contains zines which focus on feminism and women's topics. Series V contains general publication zines that do not focus on one specific topic or focal point. The majority of these zines are self-published, single-issue printings. Series VI contains zines that are either formatted as comic books, in a style reminiscent of comic book design or contain predominantly comic strips and artwork, interspersed with text. Series VII contains zines that focus on special interest communities which include, but are not exclusive to, kink communities. Series VIII contains zines that pertain to informative publications such as newsletters, advertisements, flyers and press releases. Series IX contains international publications. Series X contains correspondence including letters, post cards and greeting cards addressed to Larry-Bob Roberts, letters from inmates and envelopes that include exterior annotations and artwork. Series XI contains various artifacts and ephemera, including miscellaneous personal notes and papers

pertaining to Larry-Bob Roberts. Series XII contains newspapers and publications created to replicate newspaper format. Series XIII contains zines and small publications published on wood pulp/newspaper material. The majority of these zines are general publications.

Indexing Terms: Gay men, Lesbians, Bisexual people, Transgender people, People of color, Activism, Art, Bears (Gay culture), Comic books, strips, etc., Erotica, Feminism, Poetry, Music, Politics and elections, San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

Container Listing

Series I: Multi-Issue, 1980-2007

Physical Description: 1 carton

Scope and Content: This series pertains to zine, small press and independent publications that were prolific in publications and contained multiple issues throughout their runs. Many of these publications are of a higher production quality and include glossy paper and professional photographs. However, some zines in this series are of a lower production quality, but are equally or more prolific in publication distribution.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

- 1:1 Multi-issue batteries not included, 1994-2003
- 1:2 Multi-issue batteries not included, 2004-2007
- 1:3 Multi-issue RFD, 1994-1995
- 1:4 Multi-issue RFD, 1997-2002
- 1:5 Multi-issue RFD, 2003-2006
- 1:6 Multi-issue RFD, 2006-2007
- 1:7 Multi-issue other magazine, 2003-2006
- 1:8 Multi-issue other magazine, 2006-2008
- 1:9 Multi-issue cross-talk, 1995
- 1:10 Multi-issue cross-talk, 1995-1996
- 1:11 Multi-issue a bear's life, 2006
- 1:12 Multi-issue bulkmale, 1993-1994
- 1:13 Multi-issue bulkmale, 1997-2002
- 1:14 Multi-issue bear publications, 1991-1997
- 1:15 Multi-issue evil magazine, 1992
- 1:16 Multi-issue odyssey, 1992
- 1:17 Multi-issue odyssey, 1993
- 1:18 Multi-issue oi boy, 1992-1993
- 1:19 Multi-issue butt, 2002-2003
- 1:20 Multi-issue straight to hell, circa 1980

Series II: Poetry and Fiction, 1989-2004

Physical Description: 7 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains zines and publications whose primary topics were poetry and fiction. Often these zines are a collection of poetry or fiction from either one author or multiple authors. These zines occasionally include accompanying stylistic artwork.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

2:1 Poetry and fiction, 1989-1994

2:2 Poetry and fiction, 1995-1998

2:3 Poetry and fiction, 1999-2002

2:4 Poetry and fiction, 2003-2005

2:5 Poetry and fiction, 2003-2009

2:6 Poetry and fiction, circa 1989-2009

2:25 Poetry and fiction, 2004

Series III: Music Publications, 1984-2004

Physical Description: 6 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains zines and small publications whose topic primarily focuses on music, music composition, instruments, musicians and band performances.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

2:7 Music publications, 1984-1989

2:8 Music publications, 1992-1994

2:9 Music publications, 1995

2:10 Music publications, 1995-1996

2:11 Music publications, 2000-2001

2:12 Music publications, 2002-2004

Series IV: Feminism and Women's Topics, 1989-2007

Physical Description: 12 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains zines and small publications whose focal topic are feminism and women's topics. These topics include lesbianism, queer women, women's rights, feminism and female perspectives. All publications in this series are explicitly self-identified as pertaining to women, female topics and queer women. Please note that, due to the time period in which these zines were published, there is a large amount of intersectionality with transgender identities, especially transmasculine identities and experiences.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

2:13 Feminism and women's topics, 1989-1991

2:14 Feminism and women's topics, 1991-1993

2:15 Feminism and women's topics, 1994

2:16 Feminism and women's topics, 1993-1994

2:17 Feminism and women's topics, 1994-1995

2:18 Feminism and women's topics, 1995

2:19 Feminism and women's topics, 1995

2:20 Feminism and women's topics, 1996-1998

2:21 Feminism and women's topics, 2002-2003

2:22 Feminism and women's topics, 2003-2004

2:23 Feminism and women's topics, 2000-2007

2:24 Feminism and women's topics, circa 1990-2000

Series V: General Publications, 1978-2011

Physical Description: 1 carton and 7 additional folders

Scope and Content: This series contains zines and small publications that do not have a specific focal topic. Many of these publications are self-published and contain (often stylistic) poor quality scans of photographs and hand written text. Many are autobiographical in nature and are written by a single individual, while others are a collaboration of various authors who have submitted articles or opinion pieces and most zines and publications are interspersed with stylized artwork and photography.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

3:1 General publications, 1978-1989

3:2 General publications, 1990-1992

3:3 General publications, 1991-1993

3:4 General publications, 1994-1995

3:5 General publications, 1994-1995

3:6 General publications, 1995

3:7 General publications, 1995

3:8 General publications, 1996-1997

3:9 General publications, 1996-1997

3:10 General publications, 1998-2002

3:11 General publications, 2003

3:12 General publications, 2003

3:13 General publications, 2004-2005

3:14 General publications, 2006-2007

3:15 General publications, 2006-2007

3:16 General publications, 2009-2011

3:17 General publications, circa 1990-2003

3:18 General publications, circa 1990-2003

3:19 General publications, circa 1990-2003

3:20 General publications, circa 1990-2003

3:21 General publications, circa 1990-2003

6:1 General publications, 1987-1989

6:2 General publications ECCE queer, 1991-1992

6:3 General publications, 1990-1993

6:4 General publications, 1994-1997

6:5 General publications, 1998-2000

6:6 General publications, 2000-2004

6:29 General publications, 2002

Series VI: Comics and Artwork, 1990-2010

Physical Description: 16 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains zines, small publication magazines that are either formatted as comic books, in a style reminiscent of comic book design or contain predominantly comic strips and artwork, interspersed with text. The majority of artwork is in comic, zine or small publication magazine format, however there are some unrelated pieces of artwork that were originally sent in combination with correspondence. Whenever possible, artwork and correspondence have been kept together for context.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

4:1 Comics and artwork, 1990-1993

4:2 Comics and artwork, 1990-1993

4:3 Comics and artwork, 1994-1995

4:4 Comics and artwork, 1994-1995

4:5 Comics and artwork, 1994-1995

4:6 Comics and artwork, 1994-1995

4:7 Comics and artwork, 1996-1999

4:8 Comics and artwork, 1996-1999

4:9 Comics and artwork, 2000-2003

4:10 Comics and artwork, 2000-2003

4:11 Comics and artwork, 2000-2003

4:12 Comics and artwork, 2004

4:13 Comics and artwork, 2004-2005

4:14 Comics and artwork, 2006-2010

4:15 Comics and artwork, circa 1990-2010

4:22 Comics and artwork, 1994

Series VII: Special Interest Communities, 1962-2004

Physical Description: 5 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains zines and small publications with contents and topics pertaining to specific special interests. These interests can include topics such as BDSM, however this series is not exclusive to topics pertaining to kink communities and includes any zine that focuses exclusively on a unique special interest community. For example, the Bay Area Mycological Society newsletter. This series is distinguished from Series I, Multi-Issue Publications, because items in this series do not have more than one published issues.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

4:17 Special interest communities, 1962

4:18 Special interest communities, 1992-1999

4:19 Special interest communities, 1995

4:20 Special interest communities, 2001-2004

4:21 Special interest communities, n.d

Series VIII: Informative Publications, 1988-2011

Physical Description: 19 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains items that would be perceived as informative publications. These items include newsletters, advertisements, flyers, pamphlets, catalogues that review other publications or announce upcoming print releases and various other publications that serve the primary purpose of providing the reader with information.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

5:1 Informative publications, 1988-1989

5:2 Informative publications, 1990-1992

5:3 Informative publications, 1993-1994

5:4 Informative publications, 1994-1995

5:5 Informative publications, 1995

5:6 Informative publications, 1995

5:7 Informative publications, 1995-1996

- 5:8 Informative publications, 1995-1996
- 5:9 Informative publications, 1997-1999
- 5:10 Informative publications, 2000-2002
- 5:11 Informative publications, 2003-2005
- 5:12 Informative publications, 2010-2011
- 5:13 Informative publications national black lesbian conference, 2001
- 5:14 Informative publications, circa 1990-2000
- 5:15 Informative publications, circa 1990-2010
- 5:16 Informative publications, 1996-2007
- 5:17 Informative publications, circa 1990-2005
- 5:24 Informative publications, 1992-1993
- 5:25 Informative publications, 1995-1998, n.d

Series IX: International Publications, 1993-2005

Physical Description: 6 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains zines that originate from any non-U.S. based publisher, including Canada and Mexico. Many of these publications are published in a language other than English and the majority of these publications include queer content or are specifically published for a queer audience.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

- 5:18 International publications, 1993-1997
- 5:19 International publications, 1995
- 5:20 International publications, 1995-1999
- 5:21 International publications, 2002-2003
- 5:22 International publications, 2004-2005
- 5:23 International publications, n.d

Series X: Correspondence, 1990-2006

Physical Description: 8 folders

Scope and Content: This series includes all correspondence to and from Larry-Bob Roberts contained within the collection. These correspondence include letters, post cards, greeting cards, and in some instances envelopes that the sender had written or drawn on. The majority of correspondence pertain to individuals requesting that Larry-Bob Roberts either review their zone or send a copy of his zine to them. Other correspondence include personal letters, thank you notes and letters from inmates requesting a copy of his zine, as Larry-Bob Roberts had a policy of sending inmates a copy of his zine for free.

Arrangement: This series is arranged primarily by correspondence topic or format, as very few items were definitively dated.

6:7 Correspondence empty envelopes with exterior annotations, circa 1990-1999

6:8 Correspondence inmates, circa 1990-2000

6:9 Correspondence postcards and greeting cards, circa 1990-2006

6:10 Correspondence postcards and greeting cards, circa 1990-2006

6:11 Correspondence personal, circa 1990-2006

6:12 Correspondence zine exchange circa 1990-2006

6:13 Correspondence zine exchange circa 1990-2006

6:14 Correspondence misc., 1995-2003

Series XI: Artifacts and Ephemera, 1990-2010

Physical Description: 6 Folders

Scope and Content: This series includes various items that were included in the collection but did not meet the descriptive requirements of other series. Many of these items were personal papers of Larry-Bob Roberts, such as airline tickets, miscellaneous receipts and personal notes. Other items include non-zine items that were sent to Larry-Bob Roberts through correspondence, such as buttons, stickers and various other forms of ephemera.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

6:15 Artifacts and ephemera, 1995

6:16 Artifacts and ephemera, 1990

6:17 Artifacts and ephemera, 1994

6:18 Artifacts and ephemera personal belongings, circa 1990-2010

6:19 Artifacts and ephemera, n.d

6:20 Artifacts and ephemera, n.d

Series XII: Newspapers, 1977-2004

Physical Description: 5 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains newspapers and publications published in the style and format of newspapers. Their contents are further separated by topic, with specific publications grouped together. Please note that "religious publications" contain both religious newspapers and religious parody newspapers.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by publication format, then by topic, then chronologically by publication date.

6:21 Newspaper, 1977-1978, n.d

6:22 Newspaper, 1991-1992

6:23 Newspaper, 1993-2004

6:24 Newspaper religious, 1995

6:25 Newspaper slug and lettuce, 1992-2002

Series XIII: Zines Wood Pulp, 1991-2000

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains zines and small publications that were created using wood pulp/ newspaper material. Because this type of paper is naturally acidic, these zines have been separated to protect the integrity of the rest of the collection. These zines would be considered "general publications" were they not made from wood pulp. These are distinguished from "Newspapers" as they were not produced in a newspaper format or mimicking a newspaper format, but instead a traditional zine format.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by zine material composition, then chronologically by publication date.

6:26 Zines wood pulp, 1991-1994

6:27 Zines wood pulp, 1995-2000

6:28 Zines wood pulp, circa 1990-2000